

CLAIMS

What is claimed is

- 5 1. A catheter loop manager comprising a retainer element configured to associate with an implantable pump and to releasibly hold a loop of catheter.
- 10 2. The catheter loop manager of claim 1, wherein said retainer element is configured to couple to said implantable pump and to hold said loop of said catheter adjacent to said implantable pump.
- 15 3. The catheter loop manager of claim 1, wherein said retainer element comprises a retainer body and a tip portion coupled to a front end thereof, said tip portion configured to engage a catheter connector on said implantable pump, said retainer body configured to hold said loop of said catheter.
- 20 4. The catheter loop manager of claim 3, wherein said retainer body includes an internal channel, said channel configured to hold said loop of said catheter therein.
- 25 5. The catheter loop manager of claim 4, further comprising a pull tool, said pull tool having a hook configured to fit through said channel and releasibly engage said catheter.
6. A catheter loop manager apparatus comprising a retainer element configured to couple to an implantable pump and releasibly hold a loop of catheter adjacent to said implantable pump.

7. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 6, wherein said retainer element includes an elongated retainer body having an elongated channel extending therethrough, said channel configured to hold said loop of catheter.

5 8. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 7, wherein said retainer element further comprises a tip portion joined to a first end of said elongated retainer body, said tip portion configured to engage a catheter connector on said implantable pump.

9. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 8, wherein said tip portion 10 includes a bore, said bore configured to fit over said catheter connector and allow an end of said catheter to couple to said connector.

10. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a pull tool, 15 said pull tool having a hook configured to pass through said channel and releasably engage said catheter.

11. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 6, wherein said retainer element includes at least one lateral groove configured to accommodate a suture.

20 12. A catheter loop manager apparatus usable with an implantable pump, said catheter loop manager apparatus comprising:

- (a) a retainer element having an elongated channel extending therethrough said channel configured to retain a loop of catheter; and
- (b) a pull tool having a hook configured to fit through said elongated channel and draw said loop of said catheter into said channel.

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13. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 12, wherein said retainer element is configured to couple to said implantable pump.

5 14. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 13, wherein said retainer element comprises an elongated retainer body and a tip portion joined to said elongated retainer body, said channel extending through said elongated retainer body, said tip portion configured to fit over a catheter connector on said implantable pump.

10 15. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 14, wherein said elongated retainer body includes an arcuate surface configured to conform to said implantable pump.

15 16. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 13, wherein said tip portion includes a bore configured to fit over said catheter connector and allow a catheter end to affix to said catheter connector.

17. The catheter loop manager apparatus of claim 12, wherein said retainer element includes at least one lateral groove configured to accommodate a suture.

20 18. A method for managing a service loop of catheter in association with an implantable pump, comprising:

- (a) providing a retainer element,
- (b) affixing a catheter end to a connector on said pump; and
- (c) drawing an excess portion of catheter into said retainer element to form a catheter loop therein.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising coupling said retainer element to said pump.

5 20. The method of claim 18, further comprising coupling withdrawing said catheter loop from said retainer element after depletion of said implantable pump.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising suturing said retainer element and said implantable pump within an implant incision.

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22. The method of claim 18, wherein said retainer element includes a channel extending therethrough and said drawing is carried out with a pull tool having a hook configured to pass through said channel and engage said excess portion of catheter.